

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 32 and 33 are currently pending and Claim 34 stands withdrawn. Claims 32 and 33 have been amended by the present amendment. The changes to Claims 32 and 33 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,154,791 to Gasser et al. (hereinafter “the ‘791 patent”); Claim 33 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘791 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,840,147 to Grimm (hereinafter “the ‘147 patent”); and Claim 33 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,904,795 to Murakami et al. (hereinafter “the ‘795 patent”) in view of the ‘147 patent.

Amended Claim 32 is directed to a system for fixing a part and a part support for mounting the part by use of a photocuring adhesive, comprising: (1) *an intermediate member* configured to join said part and said part support, said intermediate member formed of a resin substantially transparent to light; (2) a light generator configured to generate light used to cure the photocuring adhesive; (3) a light guide configured to gather the generated light and illuminate the photocuring adhesive along a path passing through the intermediate member; and (4) a filter located along the path between the light guide and the intermediate member configured to filter a portion of the light such that the intermediate member is able to maintain at least one of a color and a shape while the photocuring adhesive cures.

The ‘791 patent is directed to method for bonding or potting substrates using photo-activatable epoxide masses using the output of a flexible optical light guide provided with a UV band-pass filter. However, Applicants submit that the ‘791 patent fails to disclose the use of an intermediate member in bonding substrates. Thus, it cannot disclose illuminating

the photocuring adhesive along a path passing through the intermediate member. Even if it did disclose an intermediate member, it also does not disclose that the pass band of a light filter is set according to the material characteristics, i.e., the color and the shape, of the intermediate member. The '791 patent discloses that the pass band of the filter is typically in the range of 400 - 600 nm, which allows UV light to pass through the filter. However, the Office Action has failed to provide any evidence that such a filter would filter a portion of light such that the intermediate member is able to maintain at least one of a color and a shape while the photocuring adhesive cures. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 32 as being anticipated by the '791 patent is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 32.

Claim 33 is directed to a device for fixing a part and a part support for mounting the part by use of a photocuring adhesive, comprising: (1) *an intermediate member* configured to join said part and said part support, said intermediate member formed of a resin substantially transparent to light; (2) a light generator; (3) a filter located between the light generator and the intermediate member configured to filter a portion of the light such that the intermediate member is able to maintain at least one of a color and a shape while the photocuring adhesive cures; and (4) a blower configured to send air towards the intermediate member.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 33 as being obvious over the '791 and '147 patents, the Office Action asserts that the '791 patent discloses everything in the claims with the exception of the blower, and relies on the '147 patent to remedy that deficiency. However, as discussed above, the '791 patent also fails to disclose an intermediate member and a filter configured to filter a portion of the light such that the intermediate member is able to maintain at least one of a color and a shape while the photocuring adhesive cures, as recited in amended Claim 33. Moreover, Applicants submit that the '147 patent also fails to disclose the claimed filter and intermediate member.

Thus, no matter how the teachings of the '791 and '147 patents are combined, the combination does not teach or suggest an intermediate member and a filter configured to filter portion of the light such that the intermediate member is able to maintain at least one of a color and a shape while the photocuring adhesive cures, as recited in amended Claim 33. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 33 is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 33.

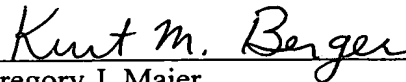
Regarding the rejection of Claim 33 as being unpatentable over the '795 and '147 patents, Applicants respectfully submit that the '795 patent and the '147 patent fail to disclose the intermediate member and a filter configured to filter a portion of the light such that the intermediate member is able to maintain one of a color and a shape, as recited in amended Claim 33. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection of Claim 33 is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 33.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 32 and 33 patentably define over any proper combination of the '791, '147, and '795 patents.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599
Kurt M. Berger, Ph.D.
Registration No. 51,461

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)
KMB:smi